

Peter Houses
2618-20 K Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

HABS No. DC-70

HABS
DC
WACH
41-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Washington 25, D. C.

HABS
DC.
WASH.
41-

Peter Houses
2618-20 K Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

HABS No. DC-70

Peter Houses

Owner: Leo Bernstein

Date of Erection: Built about 1795

Architect: Unknown

Builder: Robert Peter

Original Use: Consisted of row of five units for each of his five sons.

Present Use: Apartments

Present Condition: Three of the five units were destroyed by fire. The two remaining have been stuccoed. Both exteriors and interiors are materially altered.

Number of Stories: Three and a half with two-storied ell which may have been originally detached.

Additional Notes: Builder, Robert Peter was an original proprietor of the Federal City. Representative of the Glasgow firm of John Glassford and Company, he prospered in business and acquired considerable property in Georgetown and vicinity. In 1795 he gave his eldest son, Thomas, the house at 2618 K Street at the time of his marriage to Martha Parke Custis, granddaughter of Mrs. Martha Washington. The Washingtons often visited with the Peters. On August 5, 1799, his last night in the city, he stayed in this house.

The two houses were acquired by Anthony Merry, first British minister to live in Washington from 1803 to 1806. His successor, David Erskine, followed the Merrys as occupant until 1809. For a short while later it was occupied by the Russian Minister.

HABS
DC
WASH
41

This property constitutes an historic site of considerable importance in the early annals of social and diplomatic history. Its close association with General Washington, moreover confers distinction as a visible link with our national and city growth.

References: Harold Donaldson Eberlein and Cortlandt Van Dyke Hubbard, Historic Houses of George-Town and Washington City, Richmond, 1958, pp.342-52. Records of the Columbia Historical Society, Vol. 44-45, pp.241-47. HABI - Reference: Mrs. Walter Peter

Prepared by: Russell Jones and Worth Bailey, HABS, National Park Service, March, 1959

Approved: _____

Dick Sutton
Chief Architect

Date 11/18/59